



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

"The Church With the Revolving Cross"

QUEEN STREET NORTH

KITCHENER : ONTARIO

1863

1956

St. Peter's History

ST. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation is the oldest distinctively Lutheran congregation in the city of Kitchener, now in its 94th year of existence. Lutherans had settled in this community, then known as Berlin, as early as 1825. When the church did not follow them, many became indifferent in their faith. Others were ministered to by a Reformed preacher from Prussia, whose rationalistic theology, however, became increasingly offensive to those who were true Lutherans at heart.

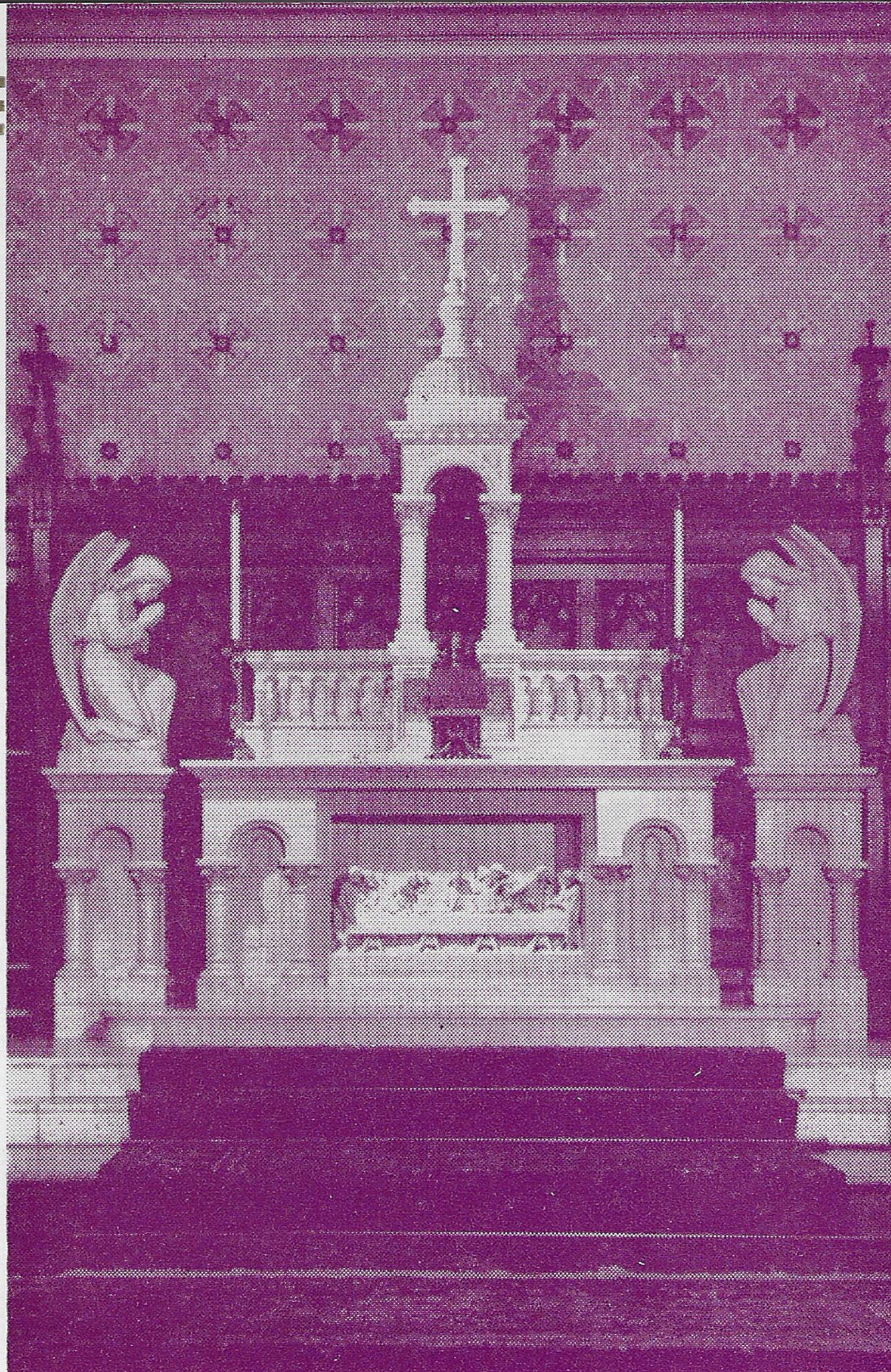
In November 1862 the Rev. C. F. A. Kaessman, a pastor of the Pittsburg Synod serving a Lutheran congregation at Sebastopol, upon request of the Lutherans in Berlin, organized a Lutheran Sunday School. His labours were so successful that within two months St. Peter's congregation was organized, on January 1, 1863. Plans were made almost immediately for the erection of a church building. By July 19, 1863, the new church home was ready for dedication and with thanksgiving and rejoicing Berlin Lutherans entered their own house of worship.

Due to the great influx of Lutherans in those years, the congregation soon outgrew the comparatively new church. In 1877 the original building was removed to make way for the present edifice which was dedicated on October 6th, 1878.

St. Peter's congregation has been served by seven pastors: C. F. A. Kaessmann to 1869; H. Sagehorn to 1877; C. G. Manz to 1881; R. von Pirch to 1905; F. E. Oberlander to 1914; H. A. Sperling to 1940 and by the present pastors, the Rev. Albert W. Lotz since 1940 and the Rev. Henry F. Nuhn since 1954.

The work of St. Peter's congregation has been richly and abundantly blessed by the Heavenly Father, and at the present time St. Peter's is the largest Lutheran congregation in Canada, numbering a baptized membership of 3,396 souls. Five services are conducted each Sunday, including a service of Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m., services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., and Vespers at 7:00 p.m. A service in the German language is conducted in the Upper Parish Hall each Lord's Day at 11:00 a.m. Services in the Estonian language are also held periodically. The congregation has been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada since 1940. All synodical and church-at-large quotas have been fully met or exceeded for many years, and all giving has been voluntary with all forms of commercialism abolished since 1940.

The members of St. Peter's are expectantly awaiting the centennial year of 1963, at which time major changes are contemplated for the church edifice.



The Altar

THE altar, which was brought across the Atlantic during the years of the First World War, is solid Italian marble and contains a hand carving of the "Last Supper" made from a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's celebrated fresco on the refectory wall in the monastery, Santa Maria della Grazie in Milan, painted in 1497. This artist's masterpieces are classed with those of Raphael and Michelangelo.

The artist represents Christ seated with His disciples at the dramatic instant following His announcement that one of the twelve should betray Him. The figures, counting the heads beginning at the left, are: Bartholemew, James the younger, Andrew, Judas, Peter, John, Jesus, Thomas, James the elder, Philip, Matthew, Theddaus and Simon.

Dedicated to the glory of God over 40 years ago, the altar has been a source of constant inspiration to all who enter the church to "worship in the beauty of Holiness."

The Chimes of St. Peter's

The chime contains twelve bells named after the twelve apostles. They were dedicated on January 1, 1902, in gratitude to God because the church was spared after lightning had destroyed the tall steeple and the three original bells in the tower of the church on May 12, 1901. The largest bell weighs two tons and the smallest about 120 pounds.

For over fifty years these bells have served the church and the community with their call to worship, and their melodies of hymns and sacred music. Their peal is carried beyond the community through a public service broadcast over the local radio station each Sunday morning at 9:15 o'clock.

The Revolving Cross

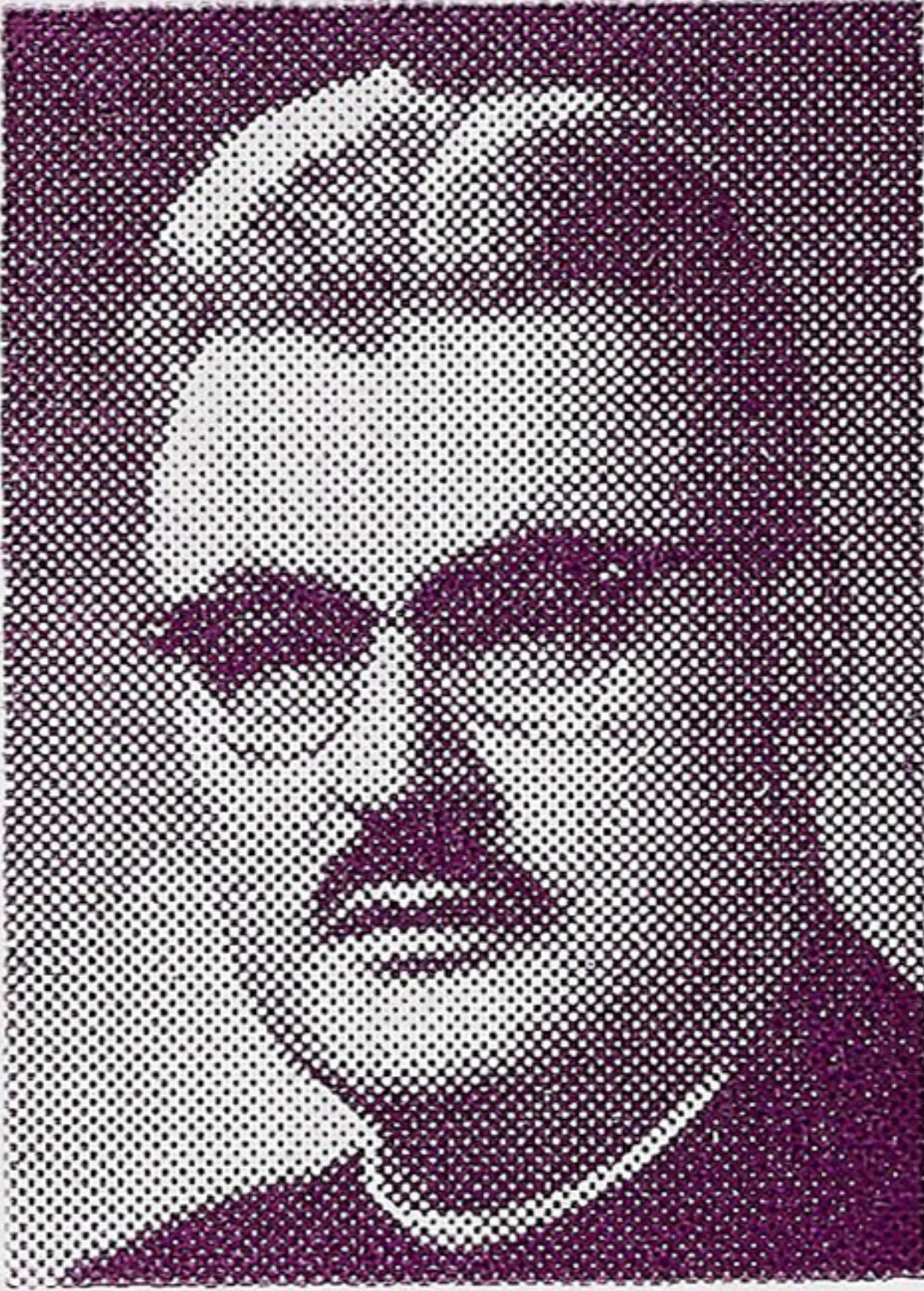
The cross, erected on the tower of St. Peter's Church and illuminated by eighty-eight daylight bulbs, is fifteen feet high and makes 2 revolutions per minute. It was dedicated in April, 1927, by the late Rev. H. A. Sperling. Towering o'er the wrecks of time, this illuminated cross brings to us the light of the sacred story and reminds us of the redemption which is ours through Jesus Who died for us on the Cross.

The Windows

Twelve beautiful memorial windows, which depict the life of Christ from His birth to the Resurrection and Ascension, have also inspired worshippers for over 40 years. These windows are deserving of reverent study and devout meditation, as is also the Martin Luther picture window in the tower of the church.

The Radio Ministry

The radio ministry of St. Peter's, "THUS IT IS WRITTEN", is now in its 16th consecutive year of service to the aged, sick, shut-in, and spiritually hungry, who are provided with the Word of Life through the medium of Radio Station C.K.C.R., Kitchener. This weekly radio broadcast each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. originates in the well-equipped radio studio above the sacristy, and includes the singing of the beloved hymns of the church by the choir under the direction of the organist, Mrs. Meda Gunn. Lenten, Good Friday and early Easter services are also broadcast. This important ministry of the church is supported by the voluntary contributions of members and friends, no public appeal for funds being ever made.



**THE REVEREND
ALBERT W. LOTZ, B.A.**

**Pastor of St. Peter's
ordained June 22nd, 1930**

Pastor Lotz served Christ Lutheran Church, Maynooth and St. Peter's, Ottawa, before beginning his ministry in St. Peter's on October 6th, 1940. He has served the Synod and the church-at-large by his membership on important boards. In 1954 he was a U.L.C.A. delegate to World Council of Churches at Evanston. At the present time he is a member of the Board of American Missions and the President of the Board of Governors of Waterloo College and Seminary.

**THE REVEREND
HENRY F. NUHN, B.A.**

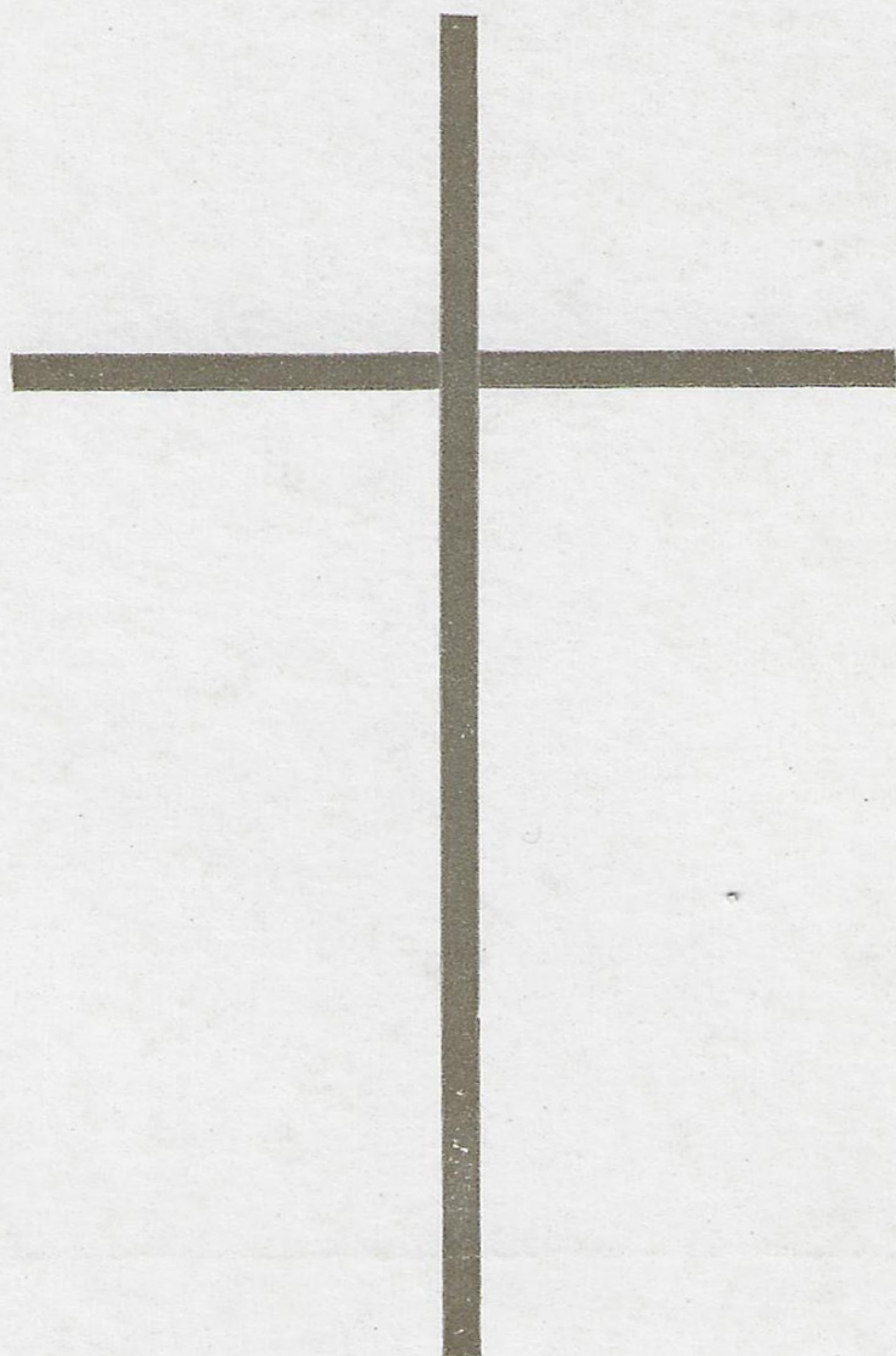
**Associate Pastor
ordained June 7th, 1942**



Pastor Nuhn received his first pastoral experience in St. Peter's, where he served as Student Assistant in 1941 and as Assistant Pastor after ordination in 1942. After serving the Heidelberg-Erbsville parish for five years, and Trinity Mission in Fort Erie for 6 years, he returned to St. Peter's as Associate Pastor on Sept. 15, 1954. A pastor with outstanding talents and consecration, his services are constantly sought by the church. At present he is a member of the Home Mission Committee of the Canada Synod.

St. Peter's Cemetery

THE largest Lutheran cemetery in Canada, located on Weber Street East, is the possession of St. Peter's congregation. It was acquired in the early days of the church's history as a fitting last resting place for the earthly remains of those who died in the faith.



*It is now a visible church, one more light set on a hill
In a world confused and dark and disturbed by portents of fear.
And what shall we say of the future? Is one church all we can
build?*

Or shall the Visible Church go on to conquer the world?

—T. S. ELIOT

*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields;
for they are white already to harvest.
And he that reapeth receiveth wages,
and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that
both he that soweth and he that reapeth
may rejoice together.*

—ST. JOHN 4:35-37